Community Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
For the Cancer Cluster Investigation
November 2, 2011

TAC Purpose: a). To provide assistance in determining what questions should be examined regarding cancer numbers – geographic region, time period, types of cancers, etc. and then and **b)**. To identify options for how to answer the question(s)/hypothesis(es).
Working Hypothesis: There is an increased rate of cancers (gather data on all, possibly narrow down later based on confirmed exposures) within a ¼ mile radius around Ft. Detrick (Area A and B).

I. Introductions:

Present Members = J. Bee (via phone); B. Brookmyer; P. Gordon; J. Hahn; E. Kruse; D. Rice; B. Roberson; G. Rudy; J. Sawitzke; A. Shirmohammadi; R. Watkins; and
Guest = Frederick News Post Reporter Cara Anthony

II. Review of Notes from September 28 Meeting

No changes noted.

III. Update on Ed Kruse's Research Efforts

Ed Kruse, University of Maryland graduate student, reviewed a slide presentation describing the current research proposal. The title of his research proposal is "A Retrospective Case Control Study of Cancer Incidence and the Influence of Environmental Factors at Area B, Ft. Detrick, Frederick County, Maryland". He reviewed the 4 research questions and described the methodology to be pursued to answer those questions. The main activity will be surveying residents within a 2-mile radius of the fence line of Fort Detrick Area B (the "case" population) and also in the Town of Walkersville and Middletown (the "control" populations). A randomly drawn sample of 2500 residential address will be drawn from both the case study area and the control areas. The survey questionnaire will be distributed to each of these addresses. Confounders, or factors that may affect the development of cancer such as smoking history and age, will be addressed by matching cases to controls 1:1. In addition to the residential survey data the Maryland Cancer Registry will also be used as a data source, although it will not be available at the exact level for Ed as the law does not permit the public to access that level of personal data, although Dr. Mitchell, as a State DHMH investigator, did have access to exact addresses.

Ed expressed hope that his work would contribute to a better understanding of cancer incidence from exposure to environmental contaminants. A methodology will be developed to determine cancer incidence risk, which integrates traditional retrospective case control study design with GIS technology to investigate cancer incidence around the superfund site, Fort Detrick waste disposal Area B that can then be applied to other Superfund sites. .

IV. Update from Members on Other Data Collection Efforts

a. School-linked case finding – No time for updates

b. Old Address lists – No time for updates

c. KRF – No report available.

d. Story Project – Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health students and faculty interested. No further information available on proposal.

V. Sharing of Other information Relevant to Member Interests

a. National Academy of Sciences – No information available from the October 26 meeting.

b. Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee – No time for updates

VI. Next Meeting – To be determined based upon what would be most beneficial to Ed Kruse and his efforts.